

Going TDY?



KNOW WHAT TO DO IN A HOTEL FIRE

WARNING: HOTELS CAN BE VERY HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH

Have you ever been in a hotel during a fire? It's a frightening experience, and you should start thinking about it before you find yourself in this situation. Ask yourself, what would I do? How am I going to get out if I need to? An unfortunate fact of life is that things happen. People are careless and facilities wear out. Contrary to what you have seen on television or in the movies, fire is not likely to chase you down and burn you to death. It's the bi-products of fire that will kill you. To improve your chances of surviving a hotel fire, you must know how to avoid smoke and panic and where to find the exits. By having a plan on what you would do, you will greatly improve your chances. With this in mind, here are a few tips:

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE



There's not always fire.

There may be smoke but no fire visible. If this is true, you may have a little time to think things out before you react. Remember that smoke will start accumulating at the ceiling and work its way down. The first thing you may notice is that there are no "EXIT" signs. That's because they're concealed in the ceiling smoke. When you have smoke, it's too late to start looking for the exit.

DON'T PANIC



You're going to need a cool head.

Panic is the sudden, overpowering terror felt by people in extreme situations they don't understand. Once panic sets in, it seems to grow and can make you do things that could kill you. If you understand what's going on, what to do, where to go, and how to get there, panic will not set in or at least, be controllable.

HAVE A PLAN AND KNOW YOUR EXIT ROUTE



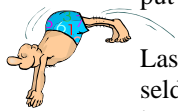
To have a plan means to know what you would do in a given emergency. Take the 5 minutes you need to think it out. The time to identify where the emergency exits are is when the elevator drops you at your floor. Get yourself into the habit that as you open your room door and drop your luggage, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, turn around and go back into the hallway to check your exit. You may NEVER get another chance. Another good habit is to put your room key in the same place every time you stay in a hotel. Since every hotel has night stands, that's an excellent location. Checking for your exit and leaving the room key on the nightstand is the best way to be prepared to leave the hotel in a hurry in case of fire. Also very important is to take your key with you if you decide to leave the room. You might find it worse in the hallway and cannot get back through your self-locking room door, and finally, if, while in your room you hear someone banging on doors, or yelling in the hallway, investigate it before you continue what you're doing or you go back to sleep. If they're yelling "fire" in a language you don't understand, at least you will be alerted that something out of the ordinary is happening.

CALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT



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Immediately call the fire department and give them your hotel name and room number. Believe it or not, most hotels will not call the fire department until they verify whether or not there really is a fire and try to put it out themselves. The number should be posted next to the phone.



Last but not least, before you consider jumping to your freedom, realize that people above the third floor seldom live through the jump. You may want to keep it as a last resort but remember that help may be just on the other side of the door.

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